REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the second Office Action dated August 05, 2008, claims 9-19 of the present invention were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being obvious over *Malik* (U.S. Patent No. 6,748,067) in view of *Dahari* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0076281). The applicants believe that the claims are not obvious to a person skilled in the art in view of *Malik* and *Dahari* for the following reasons.

In the following description, *Malik* is referred to as D1, and Dahari is referred to as D2.

First, the combination of D1 and D2 does not disclose all the features of independent claim 9. In particular, the combination of D1 and D2 does not teach or suggest the following elements recited in claim 9: (a) providing, **by the VPN service logic**, the VPN service to the user terminal, charging the VPN service, and (b) **invoking a prepaid service logic for deducting, according to a result of the charging, from a prepaid account.** Furthermore, the Office Action does not explicitly explain why the differences between the combination of D1 and D2 and claim 9 would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

From the disclosure of col. 1, lines 59 - 64 and col. 3, line 30 - col. 4, line 8 of D1, we can see that the solution of D1 adopts the Intelligent Network (IN) system in order to resolve the problem of providing access to multiple ISP on a pre-paid or pay-per-use basis without increasing the ISPs' overhead in creating accounts and billing subscribers. In other words, D1 discloses a solution for providing only one type of service, such as, the prepaid service per se, and does not show how to deal with two different services. Therefore, the process of invoking one service logic by another service logic is not disclosed in D1. Thus, the elements of claim 9: "providing, **by the VPN service logic**, the VPN service to the user terminal, charging the VPN service, and **invoking a prepaid service logic** for deducting, according to a result of the charging, from a prepaid account" are not disclosed by D1.

In order to resolve the problem of the failure to cope, by the SCP, with a service control request message from a SSP due to the difference in the format of the message between the SSP and SCP, D2 discloses the solution of mediating the difference in the format of the message between the SSP and SCP by **introducing a mediating system into the existing system.** *See* paragraphs [0011] – [0018], [0020], [0023], [0040] – [0041] of D2. The SSP messages sent to the SCP and the response messages from the SCP to the SSP are

intercepted by the mediating system which can translate one type of message into a unified format in order to meet with the destination protocol requirements. In other words, the processes of translation or conversion are implemented by the mediating system. However, the process of invoking the prepaid service logic by the VPN service logic is not disclosed by D2.

Further, the applicants believe that the difference between the combination of D1 and D2 and claim 9 are so distinct that one of ordinary skill in the art could not have combined the features of D1 and D2 to achieve the invention of claim 9. The detailed rationale is set forth below as follows:

1. The combination of D1 and D2 cannot achieve the technical solution recited in claim 9.

D1 discloses providing the pre-paid service based on Intelligent Network, but does not disclose that the pre-paid service can be invoked by other services, such as the VPN service (col. 3, line 30-57 of D1). D2 discloses two different services from **different equipment providers** can be integrated by an added mediating system into the existing Intelligent Network system (paragraph [0018] of D2). When D1 and D2 are combined, the resulting solution is that the pre-paid service and other services from **different equipment providers** (for example, from different SSPs) can be provided by a specific SCP via the added mediating system. This solution, derived from the combination of D1 and D2, lacks any teaching of invoking prepaid services via VPN services.

2. From paragraphs [0020], [0023] of D2 we can see that D2 states that the prepaid system is a closed system that does not provide any open API for third party developers in order to integrate with it and exploit the capabilities of the prepaid infrastructure. As just based on this technical knowledge prejudice, D2 teaches away from exploiting the prepaid services with various function interfaces that can be invoked by other services and instead adopts adding a router and an adaptor (the mediating system) into the existing system. By contrast, the subject matter of the application, as recited in claim 9, is directed to invoking prepaid services via VPN services without the need for a mediating system.

3. Compared with the functional solution derived from the combination of D1 and D2, the method of claim 9 has great technical advantages, for example reducing the entities and the interaction between these entities in a network resulting from directly invoking one
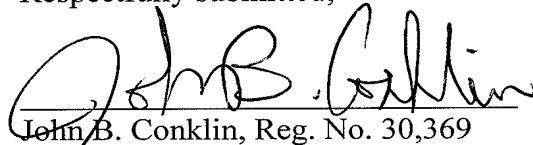
service from a different service.

Based on the foregoing, the applicants believe that independent claim 9 is not obvious to a person skilled in the art in view of *Malik* and *Dahari*.

Since dependent claims 10-19 directly or indirectly refer back to claim 9, it is believed that claims 10-19 must also meet the requirements of patentability for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing remarks, the applicants believe that claims 9 - 19 of the present application meet the requirements of patentability. Reconsideration of the present rejection and an allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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